

Food Security Act – Treatment

WATERCOURSE (acre)

Definition

A natural channel within cultivated sugarcane fields that has not been shaped or graded and is maintained in suitable vegetative cover for the stable conveyance of runoff.

Purpose

To reduce ephemeral gully erosion in natural channels.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

On cropland with complex topography growing sugarcane, where constructing a grassed waterway is not structural and economically feasible. NOTE: For the purpose of conservation practice application, complex topography is defined as land with closely spaced changes in percent slope, slope length, and/or slope direction. Landscapes with complex topography are typically undulating, rolling or hummocky.

SPECIFICATIONS

Diversions, terraces or other water control structures cannot be outletted into the watercourse.

At least 50 percent of the natural channels in a field must be managed as watercourses. The entire length of the natural channel must be managed as a watercourse.

Vegetation

The watercourse must be maintained in natural vegetation or sugarcane.

The sugarcane can be harvested as long as:

1. The watercourse is planted to an oat cover crop at the same time the cane is planted. See specifications "Cover and Green Manure Crop – Supplement on Cover Crop for Sugarcane" in Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide.
2. Lilikoi rakes will not be used to recover cane left behind after the initial harvest.

Capacity

The watercourse must have adequate capacity to convey the expected runoff without causing erosion.

Water from structural measures cannot be outletted into these watercourses.

Width

Specify the required watercourse width to be maintained.